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Stated Meeting, September 17, 1897.

Vice-President PEPPER in the Chair.

Present, 16 members.

Correspondence was submitted and donations to the Library were reported.

The announcement of the decease of William S. Baker, a member of the Society, on the 8th day of September, æt. 74 years, was made.

Mr. R. P. Field presented a communication on "The Span of Life."

Mr. Henry C. Mercer made some remarks on the "Survival of the Art of Illuminating Manuscripts among the Germans in Eastern Pennsylvania."

The Committees on By-Laws and Finance presented reports.

The Society was adjourned by the presiding officer.

THE SPAN OF LIFE.

BY ROBERT P. FIELD.

(*Read September 17, 1897.*)

On Thursday, February 28, 1895, the *Evening Bulletin*, a daily journal published in Philadelphia, had an editorial upon long life in Philadelphia, referring to an address by Dr. Lawrence Turnbull on "Longevity and Personal Hygiene," in which he presented an array of facts with regard to the advanced age of some of our best known men, and said: "The Biblical idea of three-score years and ten is gradually ceasing to be the limit in our day, owing to better sanitary laws and regulations," which this journal states is in direct opposition to the common belief that, in the United States at least, the activity and restlessness of the people are tending to shorten the period of life enjoyed by the average man. This belief, it says, is entirely reasonable owing to the greater hurry and cram of the people of this country, and in view of the fact that they sleep less and hurry more over their food than do the people of other nations.